

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 8, 2004, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McDonald, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,034,928).

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald in view of Ball (U.S. Patent No. 5,310,056).

The Examiner asserts that claim 1 still reads on McDonald because the manner in which the sheets or bags 40 are folded forms a continuous web. In order to ensure there can be no confusion on this issue, Applicants are amending claim 1 to expressly call for the web to be formed from a continuous endless component between the first and second ends. Support for this claim Amendment may be found in at least Fig. 7 of the drawings that shows the web 121 formed from a continuous endless component between the first and second ends.

McDonald is directed towards an apparatus and process for producing a roll of separable folded sheets or bags (see McDonald at column 2, lines 10-12, lines 17-20, lines 38-40, and lines 46-50). In fact, the primary object of McDonald is to provide an apparatus that can assemble discrete sheets, strips or bags into coreless rolls (see McDonald at column 2, lines 5-8). As shown in Figs. 3-3c of McDonald, the bags 40 and 40' are separate components that are interfolded with one another and wound in order to form the roll assembly. As such, a plurality of components 40, 40' are interfolded with one another in order to form the web.

Claim 1, on the other hand, calls for the web to be formed from a continuous endless component between the first and second ends. The continuous endless component may be a sheet-like material that is used to form the web, or can be a composite or laminate comprising two or more sheet-like materials used to form the web (see Applicants' application on page 6, lines 103). Additionally, the continuous endless component that forms the web of claim 1 may or may not have perforations disposed therethrough. The separate bags 40, 45 of McDonald that are folded onto one another and wound in order to form the roll assembly cannot reasonably be considered to be formed from a continuous endless component between the first and second ends.

McDonald specifically teaches against having a web formed from a continuous endless component. McDonald specifically states that a web formed from a continuous endless component is disfavored because these types of webs are usually large and cumbersome to handle (see McDonald at column 1, lines 43-47). McDonald is specifically directed towards a web formed from multiple components, and specifically teaches against a web formed from a continuous endless component (see McDonald at column 2, lines 44-49).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 defines over McDonald and is in condition for allowance. Further, all claims that depend from claim 1 (claims 2-7, 14 and 15) are also in condition for allowance. Their rejections being made moot due to the allowance of claim 1.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 16 along the same lines as the amendment made to claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims define over McDonald for essentially the same reasons as discussed

above with respect to claim 1, and are in condition for allowance. Further, all claims that depend from claims 8 and 16 (claims 9-13 and 17-22) are also in condition for allowance. Their rejections being made moot due to the allowance of claims 8 and 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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